

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

March 10, 1972

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~.....~~ *A*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: Thank-you Letters to Mao and Chou

Attached at Tabs A and B, respectively, are thank-you letters to Chairman Mao and Prime Minister Chou. They have been cleared by Ray Price.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letters at Tabs A and B.

*K- [unclear] where
an occasion justifies
it - see that I
write Chou from
Time to time*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1972

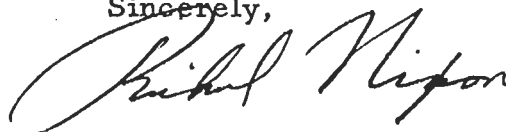
Dear Mr. Chairman,

Please accept my warm thanks, as well as those of Mrs. Nixon and all of the Americans who accompanied us, for the gracious consideration with which we were received in the People's Republic of China. We have come away from your country with a far deeper appreciation of the beauties of its land, the qualities of its people, and the views of its government.

I especially benefitted from, and I will always remember, our conversation on the afternoon of my arrival in Peking. Your frank and wise observations, as well as your warm welcome, set the framework for the entire week which did so much to further the interests of our two great peoples. My conversations with Premier Chou En-lai were marked by the same tone of candor; they enabled both sides to clarify their views, articulate our differences, and explore common ground.

World realities brought us together after a long separation. I believe these realities will continue to shape our future. If, together, we maintain the mutual candor and comprehension that marked our discussions during my visit, we can move further down the road on which we have now embarked. There is no more important goal for our two nations and for our two peoples.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Chairman Mao Tse-tung
Peking, People's Republic
of China

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1972

Dear Mr. Premier,

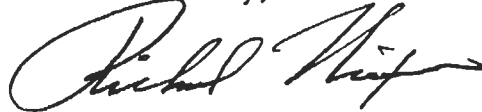
On behalf of Mrs. Nixon, the official party, and all the other Americans who accompanied me on my visit to the People's Republic of China, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the generous courtesy and thoughtfulness of your government, your people, and you personally. For all of us, the week in Peking, Hangchow and Shanghai was a truly memorable and historic occasion. Please extend our gratitude and thanks to the many Chinese officials who treated us with such efficiency and hospitality.

The most significant and rewarding aspect of my visit was, of course, my meetings with Chairman Mao and yourself. I believe our discussions, and the joint communique which reflects them, served as a model of candor and comprehensiveness for leaders of nations who seek to bridge a wide gulf of isolation and differences. My understanding of your country's views was greatly enriched, and I found our discussions of the broader aspects of international affairs most rewarding. I hope that our talks also served to define the purposes and direction of American policy.

In your toast at the opening banquet you expressed the "hope that, through a frank exchange of views between our two sides to gain a clearer notion of our differences and make efforts to find common ground, a new start can be made in the relations between our two countries." This was my purpose in travelling to your country. Together, I believe we have served that goal and, in so doing, have advanced the interests not only of our two great peoples but of all the peoples of the world.

We both recognize that we have only marked a beginning. Before us lies the challenge of developing what we have started. This process will require mutual understanding and restraint as well as continuing candor. The United States will approach this important task in that spirit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Nixon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chou En-lai
Premier of the State Council
of the People's Republic of China
Peking, People's Republic of China